

Message Text

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60-45

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04 PRS-01 DRC-01

NIC-01 ACDA-19 /103 W

----- 051744

R 191011Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8269

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONSUL ZAGREB UNN

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW ?

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C O R R E C T E D FOR ADDED INFO ADDEE (AMEMBASSY MOSCOW)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, UR

SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO"

1. FIRST YUGOSLAV-ORIGINATED MEDIA COMMENTARY ON PUBLICATION "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO" APPEARED IN ZAGREB DAILY VJESNIK JANUARY 17. COMMENTARY BY ZELJKO BRIHTA ATTACKS "GULAG" AS ATTEMPT "TO DISCREDIT SOCIALISM AS SYSTEM AND CONCEPT." BRIHTA CLAIMS SOLZHEITNYN HAS BECOME "SUPPORTER AND FLAGBEARER OF NOTORIOUS ANTI-COMMUNISTS AND ANTI-SOCIALISTS, " WHO ALSO WELCOMED "FACIST OVERTHROW" OF PRESIDENT ALLENDE, AND WHO WISH "COLLAPSE OF SOVIET AND ANY OTHER SOCIALIST SOCIETY. STALINIST PRISON CAMPS HAVE BEEN DESCRIBED BY OTHERS, CONTINUES COMMENTARY, AND SOME PUBLISHE IN YUGOSLAVIA ALSO, "BUT THEY WERE NOT WRITTEN FROM ANTI-SOCIALIST POSITION," AS IN "GULAG" BRIHTA ADDS THAT A YUGOSLAV COMMUNIST IS NOT DISTURBED BY ANTI-

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STALINISM, BUT BY ANTI-SOCIALISM, AND "BY THOSE WHO AUTOMATICALLY,

EVERYWHERE AND WITHOUT EXCEPTION, EQUATE STALINISM
WITH SOCIALISM OR COMMUNISM."

2. CURRENT ISSUE BELGRADE WEEKLY ENTERTAINMENT
MAGAZINE SVET CARRIERS REVIEW BY SOVIET LITERARY CRITIC AND
APN COMMENTATOR BORIS KOROLJOV CONDEMEING "GULAG" AND
AUTHOR SOLZHENITSYN. COMMENTARY CHARGES THAT "THIS
'HUMANITARIAN' AND 'CHRISTIAN' DEFENDS RACIST SOUTH AFRICAN
REGIME, SLADERS VIETNAM'S PARIOTS, BLESSES CRIMES OF
CHILEAN JUNTA AND ASKS U.S. TO HALT DENTE." AMONG
SOLZHENITSYN'S PROPAGATORS, WRITES KOROLJOV, ARE TO BE FOUND
COMMENTARY, WHICH ALSO CRICIZES "AUGUST 1914" WORK
NOTES EARLER NOBERL PRIZE AWARD TO SOLZHENITSYN "NOT FOR
LITERARY ACCOMPLISHMENT, BUT FOR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FIELD OF ANTI-
SOVIETISM."

3. COMMENT: YUGOSLAV MEDIA COVERAGE "GULAG" CONTRASTS
WITH PREVIOUS TREATMENT BOOKS ON THIS THEME, INCLUDING THOSE OF
SOLZHENITSYN, WHOSE PREVIOUS WORKS PUBLISHED HERE, APPEARS
TO REFLECT SPECIAL SENSITIVITY TO ALLEGED SOLZHENITSYN
CRIPCISM OF LENIN. VJESNIK REFERENCE TO WORKS PUBLISHED IN
YUGOSLAVIA RECALLS WRITING OF YUGOSLAV FORMER COMINFORM WORKER
KARLO STANJNER, WHOSE BOOK "7,000 DAYS IN SIBERIA"
PUBLISHED BY GLOBUS, ZAGREB IN 1971. INTERESTIN TO RECALL
THAT STAJNER RECEIVED BY TITO APRIL 24, 1972 AND PERSONALLY
PRESENTED HIM COPY OF BOOK WHICH GIVES VIVID ACCOUNT OF HIS
LONG IMPRISONMENT AS FORCED LABORER IN SIBERIA. JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS, SOCIALISM, ANTICOMMUNIST, GULAG ARCHIPELAGO, BOOKS, POLITICAL SITUATION, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, SOCIAL CHANGE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BELGRA00287
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: BELGRADE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740130/aaaabbvj.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <05 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <05 JUN 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MEDIA REACTION REPORT: "GULAG ARCHIPELAGO"
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, YO, UR, (SOLZHENITSYN, ALEKSANDR I)
To: STATE USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005